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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT

Miscellaneous Information from the Prague Area

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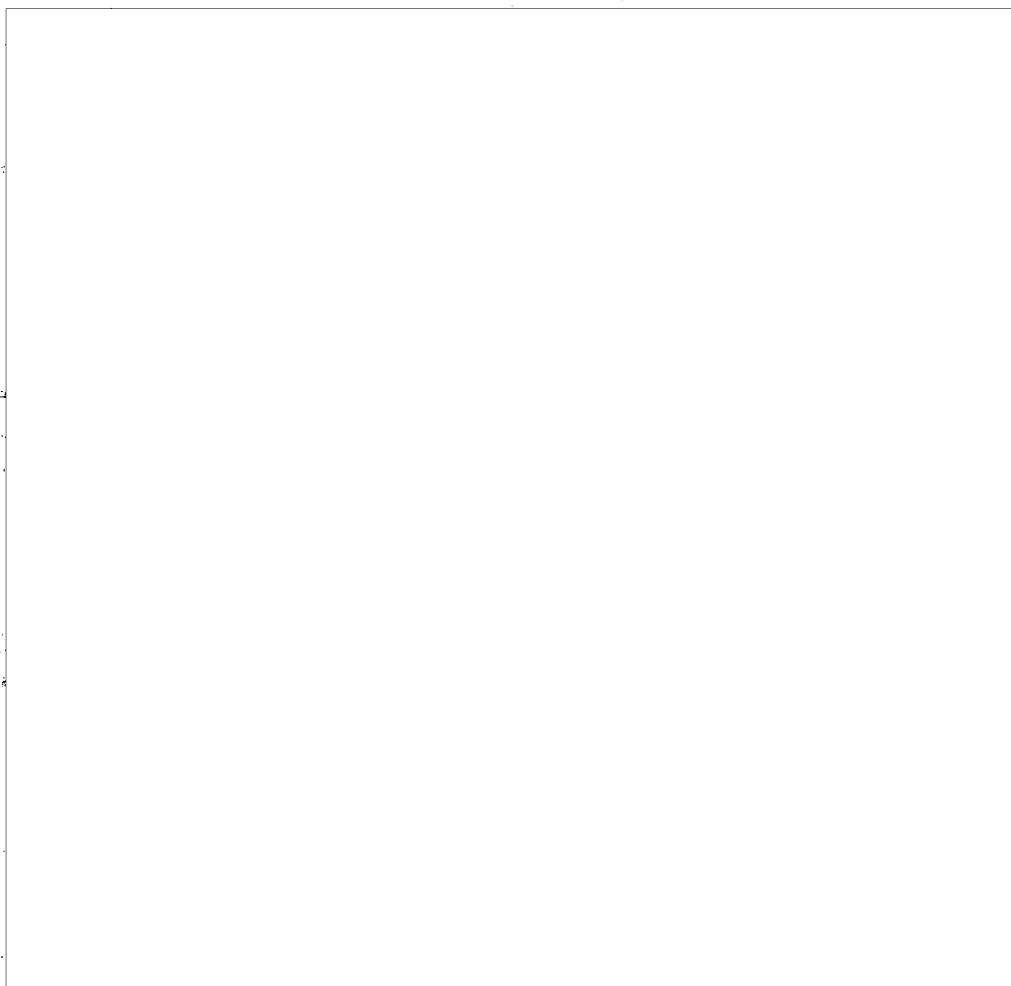
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Country: Czecho-Slovakia

Subject: Airfields in and around PRAGUE

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B. Airfields in and around PRAGUE

1. PRAHA - KEELY (50°08' N - 14°32' E)

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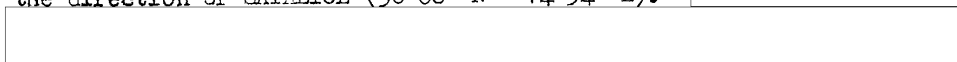
In June 1953, [redacted] the following aircraft (rough estimate): -

- 60 - 80 fighter planes, single engined, presumably "JAK-7" (?)
- 5 - 10 training aircraft, single engined monoplanes,
- 10 - 20 fighter planes, twin engined, presumably "PE-2" (?)
- 3 transport planes, 3-engined, similar to the "JU-52" 50X1-HUM



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At one part of the runway construction work of unknown character was in progress. [redacted] the runway was to be extended in the direction of SATALICE (50°08' N - 14°34' E).



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2. PRAHA - SATALICE (50°08' N - 14°34' E)

[redacted] a new airfield was to be constructed in conjunction with the airfield at KBELY.

3. Underground Hangars and Fuel Depots are

under

construction in this area [redacted] The area for this new airfield was supposed to be between SATALICE, VINOR (50°09' N - 14°34' E), RODONICE (50°09' N - 14°35' E) [redacted] No other details available.

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4. PRAHA - LETNANY (50°08' N - 14°31' E)

This is a military airfield and was in operation in June 1953. Entry into the airfield was strictly prohibited and the airfield itself was hidden from view from the road by large old and new barrack buildings ostensibly housing airforce personnel as well as a Czech tank unit. No details available.

5. Near HOR - MECHOLUPY (50°03' N - 14°32' E)

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In May 1953 a glider airfield with approximately 10 gliders was observed from the train. No details available.

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6. Near to this glider airfield, approximately 2 - 300 m south of the railway line

observed

- 12 A/A guns in fixed positions.

[redacted] similar to the German A/A gun used in the last war.

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Radar, searchlight batteries or any other military installations were not observed [redacted]

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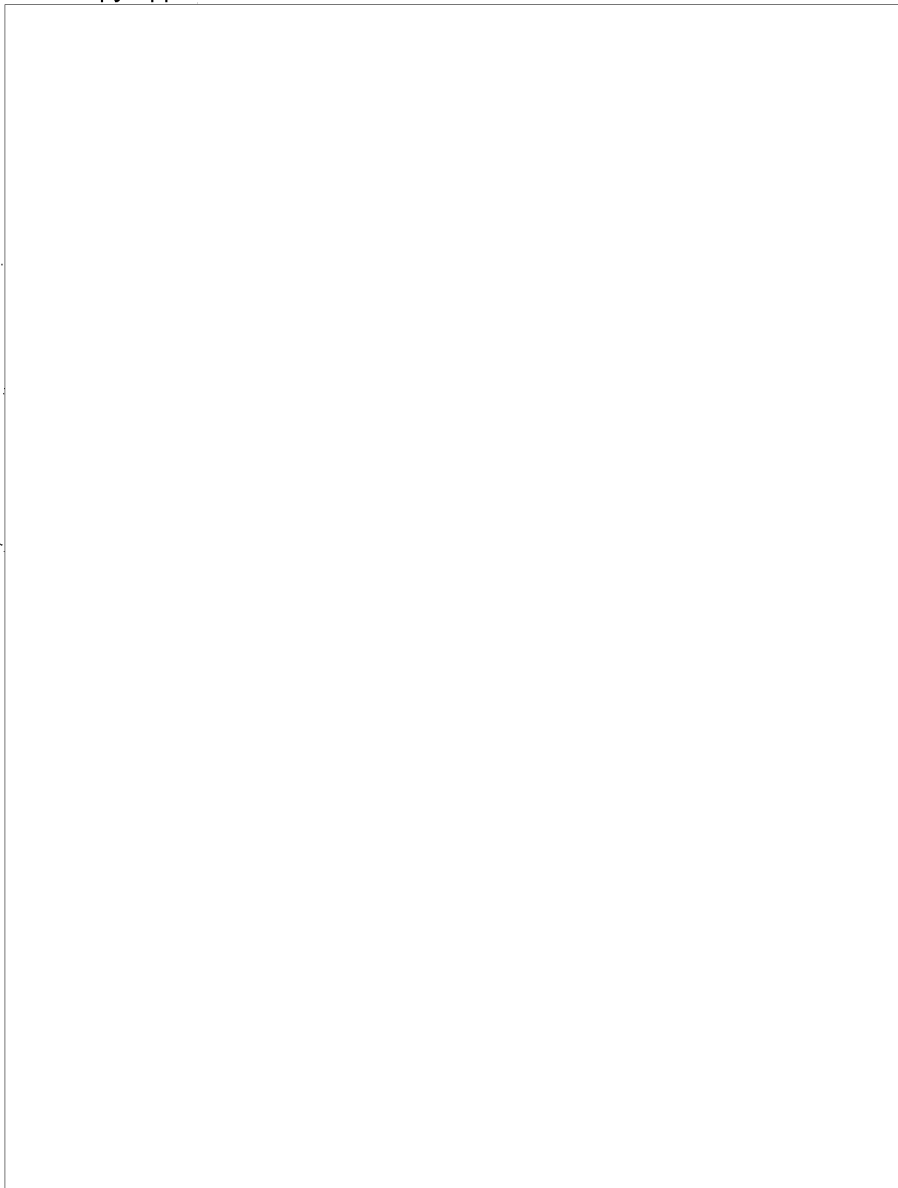
7. PRAHA - RUZYNE (50°05' N - 14°18' E)

Located at the western edge of the town this is a civilian air port for international air traffic. No details available.

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(b) Road Name ChangesFormerly:

FOCHOVA TRIDA
 MASARYKOVO NABREZI
 VINOHRADSKÉ NÁMESTÍ

Now:

STALINOVA TRIDA
 GOTTWALDOVO NABREZI
 NÁMESTÍ MIRU

(c) Fire Service

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[redacted]
 [redacted] appeals to join the voluntary air raid precaution
 service were made ever since spring 1953. [redacted]

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[redacted], the response to those repeated appeals made over
 the wireless and in the national newspapers was negligible.
 At the same time women were asked to join courses for
 "first aid" treatment and the response was said to be
 excellent.

(d) Transport

PRAGUE disposed over 23 tram lines. After the war only
 "Line 4" was reinforced by nine fast new tram cars. The

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existing 4 trolley bus lines (50, 51, 52 & 53) were augmented by 3 new lines (54, 55 & 56). The following PRAGUE suburbs are now directly connected with the capital by either buses or tram lines: -

VOKOVICE, HLUBOCEPY, BRANIK, SPORILOV, STRASNICE, HLOUBETIN, KOBYLISKY and POBABABA.

The price for a ticket (whether for one or for several changes) was 60 Heller.

- (e) Changes (see para (a) Town Details)
- (f) Numbering of Roads - no information available.

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Country: Czecho-Slovakia
Subject: General Conditions

E. General Conditions

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General

- (a) Ordinary folk complained about the bad living conditions which have not as promised earlier, improved but have steadily deteriorated. After the abolishment of rationing and the recent currency reform prices of food, clothes and other consumer goods have risen whereas wages and salaries remained at their low level.

There is also a lot of dissatisfaction about the way people believe that RUSSIA has economically exploited the country. People also strongly resent the Russians' interference in state affairs as well as industry. The qualified and skilled Czech worker feels humiliated by the constant criticism about his work and insinuations that the Russian worker is superior to him.

Workers are also very conscious of the fact that "ROH" is no longer a trade union organisation but merely a tool in the hands of the state with the object of exploiting the workers to maximum. Wages are fixed, working norms are constantly increasing; change of work is almost impossible and strikes are absolutely ruled out.

Dissatisfaction of the rural population is even greater as agricultural wages are considerably lower than in industry.

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- (b) There are hardly any ways in which the ordinary citizen can obstruct the day-to-day functioning of the regime. A frank expression of one's own opinion is dangerous and if denounced to the police action is taken for expressing a hostile opinion or worse still for sabotage which is heavily punished in accordance with the law for the protection of the five years' plan. An exchange of frank views can only take place between intimate friends.
- (c) Those few people who have dared openly to resist the regime have been arrested and have not been heard of since. Passive resistance is equally dangerous because of the many informers who are to be found in factories, offices, in house blocks and anywhere else.

Cost of Living

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21. Special QuestionOfficial visitors from the West

are in most cases communist or friendly disposed towards communism. If they are not communists they usually are accompanied by an official interpreter or, from the communist point of view, a "reliable" guide. They are usually shown show-pieces and the people they are allowed to ask and to contact are normally specially selected and the interviews pre-arranged.

Example: On the occasion of the cycle race PRAGUE - WARSAW in 1952 "MITAS N.P." was host for the Danish cycle team. The factory was not shown to the visitors; all receptions took place in a club and the few workers who were present had hardly any opportunity to talk to the Danes who were entertained exclusively by a large representation of Party functionaries.

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Appendix 'C'

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Religion and Politics

1.

(b)

few Slovaks live in PRAGUE

2.

political purges are going on all the time but are largely confined to the lower formations of the Party. The fight for good positions within the Government and in the country's general administration goes on unabated.

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3.

Since his

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disappearance some time ago nobody seems to know where Archbishop BERAN is and whether or not he is still alive.

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4. In autumn 1951, 77,000 black-coated workers were supposed to be transferred to manual work in various industries. A lot was written about this "action" in the papers and propagated as means to increase the country's productivity.

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in the end non-party members and so-called unreliable members of the Communist Party were forced to join industrial undertakings.

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6. in October 1953 a conflict between the War Minister General CEPICKA with the Minister for State Affairs NOSEK ended in a fight between the two at which shots were fired. CEPICKA is said to be the strong man of the present Czech Government, heavily backed and supported by the Soviet Union. ZAPOTOCKY is said to be ill and receiving treatment by Russian doctors.

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Country: Czecho-Slovakia
 Subject: "Controls"

F. "Controls"

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1.

the
 regulations governing police registration have been tightened up in
 February 1953.

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2. The procedure for changing one's address in the same town: An application proforma properly filled in had to be submitted to the OEVODNI NARODNI VYBOR, BYTOVY URAD. If the application was considered at all it took usually 2 - 3 months before a decision ^{mere} was made. As reasons, marriage, divorce or change of place of work were considered as valid. Simpler is the exchange of living quarters but even here the approval of the BYTOVY URAD is essential. Great importance is attached to police registration. Police registration for both departure from town and arrival in town has to be reported within 24 hours. In the case of a new arrival the address of the person concerned is entered into the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ and must be certified by the police. This procedure has to be adhered to also in the case of a change of domicile. If the person concerned has been serving in the Czech Army the new address is also entered into his military pass. The new police regulations also demand that persons absent from their flat for more than 25 hours have to notify the house steward. This man in turn has to make an entry into the house book or register. Any person staying away from his or her flat beyond mid-night has to notify the house steward who enters this fact into a special book which upon request must be made available to the police.

3.

To move
 into PRAGUE from the province is almost impossible as the town is
 overpopulated and accommodation is scarce.

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4. No special permit is necessary for travelling in Czecho-Slovakia. The possession of the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ is sufficient to pass any checks when travelling; travel outside the country is not permitted except in the case of high ranking Party officials or officials of the state administration.

5. The official identity document is the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ; it is valid for 10 years and can then be extended. The VOJENSKA KNIZKA can only be used as an identity document vis-a-vis military authorities.

6. Large firms, factories, offices and ministries have long introduced works passes; they display personal data, the photo of the owner and place of work apart from the address which has to tally with the address given in the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ. The individual citizen does not hold any other official documents apart from membership cards of the Party or [redacted] affiliate [redacted] 50X1-HUM

7. For people residing in the frontier areas (AUSTRIA and US Zone of Germany) special endorsements in the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ are made [redacted] 50X1-HUM

8. Police checks are frequently made to see whether people are properly documented. Railway stations, restaurants and night clubs are the usual places of control. People not in possession of the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ or with the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ insufficiently filled in (the person's address not confirmed by the police) are taken to police stations for questioning.

Currency

9. There is no special currency control. The exchange of foreign currency is only possible in the State Bank and its branch offices where the origin of the money has to be explained by the owner. Until summer 1953 there existed the "DAREX" (a state export company) where people could buy with foreign currency but this organisation had to close down. The official rate of exchange for the Dollar is Kc. 7.40; unofficially the Dollar is bought in the black market for 18 - 20 Kc.

Censorship

10. (a) [redacted] there is no censorship for mail within the country. 50X1-HUM

(b) All mail to and from abroad was subjected to censorship.

11. (a) There was no control for posting letters inside the country.

(b) Letters abroad had to be handed in to the post office open and the sender has to produce his OBCANSKY PRUKAZ. The official takes the number of the OBCANSKY PRUKAZ and passes the letter to the official censor.

12. Newspapers, periodicals and printed matter are officially censored.

13. [redacted] telephone conversations are overheard where suspected persons are concerned. 50X1-HUM

14. Telephone dictionaries are available at all post offices and telephone call boxes and can be purchased at main post offices.

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15. There are no controls on the purchase and use of broadcast receivers. The listening in to foreign broadcast is not prohibited but had to be exercised with great care. Almost all West European transmissions are jammed but can be heard with difficulty. Transmissions by "Freies Europa" were jammed so badly that they could not be understood in PRAGUE.

16. PRAGUE is using AC from 120 - 220 V; 120 V used largely in the old inner town whereas 220 V are used in the more modern suburbs. The change over to 220 V for the whole town has long be projected and commenced but is making very slow progress.

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17. [redacted] batteries for wireless sets [redacted]
[redacted] were extremely difficult to obtain.

Traffic Controls

19. Occasionally controls by police are carried out on trains. It is difficult to evade them because the controlling officials, working in pairs board the train at either end and work towards the middle, not letting anybody pass without checking his or her documents.

20. There are no restrictions on the amount of luggage to be taken into the compartment. Reservation of seats for first and second class [redacted] on fast and long distance trains is possible. Sleeping in station waiting rooms is permissible if the person concerned is in possession of a valid rail ticket. Frequent controls in station waiting rooms are, however, carried out. Movement from compartment to compartment is allowed.

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Control of Industry and Employment

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21. Wages paid in factories are governed by piece work rates in conjunction with the minimum norm fixed. [redacted] there is no differentiation between the wages of skilled or unskilled workers, young or old, female or male.

<u>Wages:</u>	Ordinary factory worker	500 - 1,200 Ks p. month	
	Office worker	500 - 1,200 "	"
	Experts in industry and ministries (Referenten)	1,500 - 3,000 "	"
	the commercial director of "MITAS N.P."	3,500 "	"
	a minister	7,000 - 8,000 "	"
	an old age pensioner	100 - 600 "	"

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22. [redacted] in all ministries Russian experts are well established and exercise control.

23. The system of school education was changed or at any rate revised in 1953.

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ZAKLADNI SKOLA [redacted] for children of the ages from 6 - 11 years.

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STREDNI SKOLA [redacted] secondary school for children of the age groups from 11 - 14 years.

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STREDNI SKOLA [] secondary school [] for children from 15 - 18 years with matriculation. 50X1-HUM
During this period pupils receive tuition for future study on technical high schools, art schools and universities.

Universities and Technical High Schools

[] the complete study at a university does not entitle the student to acquire the title "Dr.". He first becomes an "Aspirant" and after three more years a "Candidate"; a candidate in turn must have three years practical experience before the title of a "Dr." is being bestowed upon him. 50X1-HUM

Conscription for military service commences at the age of 18 and lasts 2 years. Men of the age groups between 1920/25 served for only 3 months because most of these people served during the last war. 50X1-HUM

[] there is a military school which accepts the entry of youth of the ages from 14 - 15.

25. There is no voluntary change of place of work.

26. Membership of the trade union "ROH" was compulsory.

27. [] Only old tradesmen with a small workshop and not employing anybody else were allowed to keep shop. However, the taxation was extraordinarily high and there was no official allocation of raw materials which the shop owner had to provide himself. 50X1-HUM

28. To live without fixed employment is impossible. Even artists, journalists and writers etc. must be members of the respective trade union [] 50X1-HUM

Medical

30. []

[] There are the panel doctors who seem to be all powerful and decide for specialists' consultation and treatment. There is an acute shortage of medical drugs. In summer 1953 an epidemic of infantile paralysis and typhus is said to have ravaged in PRAGUE and Bohemia generally. 50X1-HUM

[] Hospitals are pretty full. Patients are more often discharged home than sent to convalescent homes.

31. Most medical drugs are produced in Czecho-Slovakia or the D.D.R.

32. [] The Czech Red Cross since 1953 is appealing for people to come forward as blood donors.

Report prepared by E. S. ARON

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